

June 1998

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Columbia College Chicago

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NE

new expression

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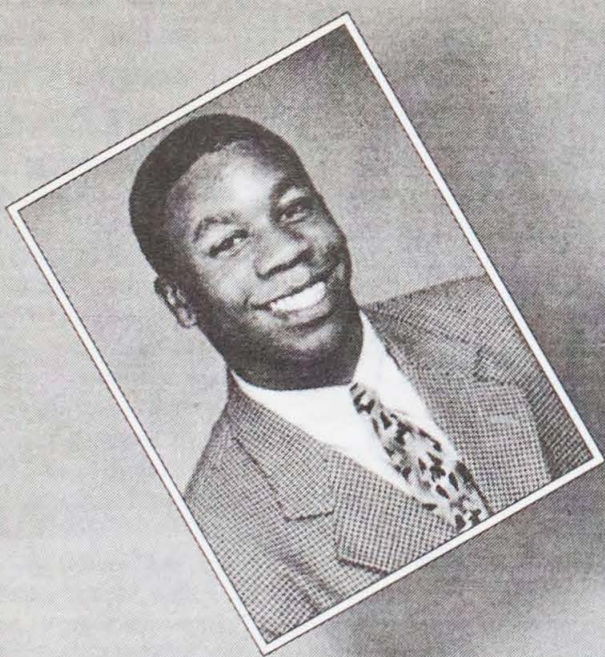
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new expression

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News

Schools seek to get off probation

By Donald Gillon, Austin and Devetta Blackman, South Shore

Many Chicago Public Schools were placed on academic probation during the 1997-98 school year. Schools that failed to meet minimum state academic standards were told to shape up or face serious changes, including termination of administrators and in extreme cases, school closings.

State officials recently said that the Chicago Public High Schools are improving but some students are still fearful that shakeups will occur because, although their schools have improved, the probation label has not been removed.

In a recent press statement, CPS Chief Executive Officer Paul Vallas, said he is working with schools "with the greatest needs." Meanwhile students at probation

schools are trying to remove the label. As they fight to regain academic respect for their schools, students are challenging teachers to make sure they are prepared.

Students like Monifa Reafey, a sophomore at South Shore, said teachers must instill greater discipline among students.

"If they were harder on us in the last two years, we would be better off," Monifa said. "That would have ensured that students didn't have failing grades, poor attendance and probation."

However, a South Shore teacher, who requested anonymity, said the school should't have been on probation, "It's more of a political thing, than an academic thing," the teacher said.

Other teachers disagree, maintaining that students need to be responsible for their actions.

"Schools need support not only academically and economically, but by the whole community it serves," said Catherine Collins, a social worker at Austin. "Some students are having problems at home that spill over into school. Yet, students must make that decision to try hard in school, and want to learn."

Charles Rayburn, a teacher at Austin said if students would attend classes, it would go a long way toward getting off probation.

"Good attendance, practice taking (IGAP) tests, math tutoring, social studies and other needed skills must be enhanced in order to be a strong school," he said



Teen Virgins: Are there any left?

By Zelda Opara, Bogan

In a world of lust, sex and raging teen hormones, it's hard to believe that there are teen virgins.

Many teen physicians agree that teens enter into the world of sex prematurely, because they forget they have options.

"They go for the heat of the moment type of thing," said Dr. Anne Carr of Cook County Hospital. "Go for love when making such big decisions."

Others feel that too many teens are growing up in the television world of "Melrose Place," "Beverly Hills 90210" and other sexually explicit programming. These programs display actors and actresses portraying young adults and many of the scenes promote sexual activity, arousing the already stimulated curiosity of teens.

According to the May 1996 issue of *Seventeen* magazine, 50 percent of 15 and 16-year-old survey participants indicated they were sexually active. However, 86 percent of the girls wished they would have waited, compared to only 68 percent of boys.

Apart from the remorse teens may feel, there is a major concern about diseases that may be stemming the tide of sexual activity. According to Supriya Madhavan, who monitors sexually transmitted disease for the Chicago Health Department, teens reporting STDs are getting younger.

For example, based upon 1995 statistics, 10 to 14-year-old girls reported 917 cases of gonorrhea and 15



Health

This health column is sponsored by the William C. Bannerman Foundation

to 19-year-olds reported 13,314 cases of the same disease. Madhavan said that some cases are repeat cases.

Even with statistics like this, teens say it's still a struggle to remain a virgin.

"A lot of pre-marital sex can be avoided by teens dating one person, who is also in their age group," said Marcia, 14, a Chicago Vocational Academy freshman. "The pressure is great on teens to lose their virginity early."

Kenwood Academy sophomore, Mariana, 15, said she would have "protected sex" with the right guy.

"It's not about age, but about the person you love and have feelings for. If I'm 15 and in love, or 30 should there be a difference?" Mariana asked.

But groups like The Pure Love Alliance maintain that no matter how great the pressure is to have pre-marital sex, teens still have options to abstain.



Britian teens visit Chicago

By Donald Gillon, Austin, Dar'Keith Lofton, Foreman & Corey Miggins, Kennedy-King College

Teens, like many adults, get their views about people they don't know from what they see on TV or the movies. As a result, a group of British teens recently visited Chicago to find out the "real story" on American teens.

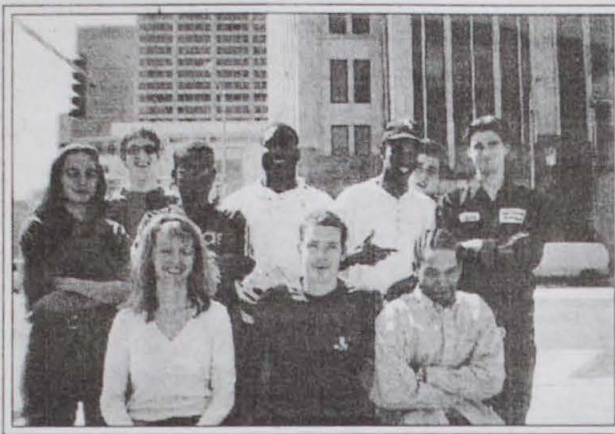
This was the final stop on a two-city filming for an upcoming documentary that is will be shown in mid-June on the British Broadcasting Network (BBC).

Youth Cable Television (YCTV) is a youth run television organization in London, England that began in 1994. During the crew's week-long stay, last month, they interviewed *New Expression* staffers and members of the Chicago Children's Choir.

Other towns to be featured in the documentary include: New York's Bronx and Harlem communities.

After taping teens at various places where Chicago's teens hang out, the British crew said they found their stereotypes of American specifically Chicago were destroyed.

"I thought that they (American teens) were partying all the time and



During a break from taping their documentary, the YCTV crew enjoys a light moment with *New Expression* staff writers.

the schools was full of fights and stuff," Shawn Douglas, 19, YCTV camera operator. He added that his views have changed as a result of the visit.

Another YCTV camera operator, Geraldine Fitzsel, 16, said that

Chicago teens were very friendly. "The English youth are usually more closed up for a while, but youth over here are very nice," Geraldine added.

Two other YCTV staffers said they expected to see car-jackings and "crazy Americans" all over the place. They said "The Jerry Springer Show," American newscasts and hip-hop played a major role in their mindsets.

"Before coming (to America) people told us we were going to get shot and we wouldn't be able to walk down the street with a camera," said Antony Adel, 17. "They also said there are no girls in the city and that they were all at the beach."

After taping teens, YCTV members said Britain is just like America. Both cultures watch a lot of television, play video games, and go to movie theatres. "British kids do pretty much, the same thing as listening to hip hop, and hanging out," said Mungo MacLagan, an adult staff member. He said, "There are so many stereotypes, not only by the people, but the media, as well, basically."

Trippin' in Thailand

By Chanel Polk, University of Illinois at Chicago

A great desire to travel and a broader view of the world is what Zachary Cooper, a senior at Calumet Academy, brought back from his stay in the Asian country of Thailand.

Just a year ago, Cooper had no idea that his life would be so greatly effected by signing up with American Field Services (AFS), a foreign exchange program which offers teens international experiences.

"They came to my school one day and I just signed up. I thought it would be fun."

Signing up with the program was a move that set him on the road to an experience that he is likely never to forget.

After a 22-hour airplane trip, Cooper found himself in Bangkok, Thailand's capital city, in a culture far removed and vastly different from his own. Cooper had little knowledge of Thai culture and made no attempt to acquire information about the country purposely. He thought that this would make him more open to

learn different things.

A visit to one of Bangkok's shopping malls made the differences between Thai culture and that which exists in the United States all too apparent, leaving him in a sort of culture shock. "There were no dressing rooms. I was shocked to discover that many Thai people don't wear underwear and amazed to see a woman put new pants on her 8-year-old son, who was naked from the waist down, out in public."

He also encountered discrepancies in the use of the English. According to Cooper, many Thai people know English language and the small amount that is learned comes from movies containing profanity. As a result, profane language was used frequently and largely out of context.

Despite these difficulties, he feels that he was treated well. He also admits that it took three months of his six month stay to adjust to his new environment.

While in Bangkok, Cooper lived with a host family which was a two-parent household. The

mother worked as an English teacher and the father was a member of the Thai military.

The couple's two sons, ages 15 and 19, each made his stay in their home enjoyable. Food served in the household was traditional Asian in nature; noodles, chicken and rice. Another cultural difference was noticed in the way the family purchased food.

"They didn't store food the way that we do. They went shopping everyday to buy food and only bought

enough to last for that one day." The members of the family were Buddhists and practiced their religion about once a week by Cooper's estimation.

He also admits that it was difficult to adjust to the new educational system in which he was placed. "They don't really teach students how to think for themselves. They emphasize

memorization." As a student at Sirauiya, a mixed level school with grammar and high school students, he took classes in college algebra, Thai culture and geography. He received high school credit upon completion.

According to Cooper, the most difficult



Summer hangouts for teens

By Eliyannah Yisrael, Israel Academy

Often teens complain about the lack of places to hang out, but sometimes they are looking in the wrong places. Here are a few suggestions to beat boredom this summer.

The Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive, (312) 922-7827.

The Adler Planetarium offers exhibits, sky shows, among other things, all pertaining to astronomy.

The Virtual World, 435 E. Illinois

St. (North Pier), (312) 836-5977.

Virtual World has computer games dealing with virtual reality. Battle Tech and Laser Tag, just to name a few.

There are lots of other video games and fun things to do.

Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., (312) 595-7437.

The city poured \$150 million renovating this place to make it more family and teen friendly, so it's a good place to hang. There are many restaurants, films, shops and other things for teens to do.

Young Eagles, Meigs Field, (312) 409-5621.

Young Eagles is a place where people age 5 and up can fly a plane for 30 minutes. There will be an instructor there to accompany you.

USA Rainbo Roller Rink, 4836 N. Clark St., (773) 271-6200.

Here they have a rink for beginners and a gigantic rink for the more advanced skaters. The roller rink also has an arcade and a place for food and refreshments.

Comiskey Park, 333 W. 35th St., (312) 674-1000.

The home of the Chicago White Sox baseball team offers more than baseball games. Tours are available to show the press box, the dugout, the security office and the score board.

Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison St., (773) 404-CUBS.

aspect of the different culture to adjust to was open homosexuality. According to Cooper, many homosexuals were in their teens and cross-dressed while in school. Cross-dressing was only allowed by male students while females were restricted from taking part in this activity. Young women can't even wear makeup.

Though he enjoyed his stay in Bangkok, Cooper cited pollution as the major reason he would not want to live there permanently.

One of America's most watched teams also offers tours. Like Comiskey Park, tours are available to show the press box, the dugout, the security office, the score board and the playing field.

Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive (312) 922-9410.

The Field Museum is filled with hands-on activities. There are several special exhibits that come and go throughout the year.

Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., (312) 443-3500

Art from the past and present are featured here. Many different cultures showcase their works providing an enriching experience for all visitors.

Museum of Broadcast Communications, Cultural Center,

Michigan and Washington St. (312) 629-6000.

At the Museum of Broadcast Communications, you can make a 20-minute tape of yourself as a reporter. There also are a host of other exhibits from the beginning of radio and television in Chicago and nationally.

Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., (312) 747-4130.

Okay, it's the summer and who wants to be around books, right? However, the Harold Washington Library offers more than books. There are many cultural exhibits, programs and art on display. Additionally, they have Internet access for those who like to surf the Web.

There are many other places to go. These were meant only to be suggestions of places teens see all of the time, but probably ignore. For more summer events, visit NE's Summer Calendar on pages 4 and 13.

Safe schools zones ...are they really safe?

By Avian Carrasquillo, Weber

"Gang-infested warzones, drug warehouses, safety hazards." These are all words associated with an unsafe neighborhood, but many students also use these words to describe their schools.

Despite the efforts of school and police department officials to promote safe school zones, many students maintain they are being taught lessons of violence and fear, well before they enter into the classroom.

At Kennedy, Rosemary Gonzalez says there are constant fights outside and inside the school, including one instance when a student burned a locker. An anonymous student at Luther South recalled that a man came into the school and tried to take money from students.

According to Janelle Watson and Parsha Watkins of Longwood Academy, some of the outside hazards spill over into the schools.

"Students from a nearby school have come into (Longwood) unnoticed by security," Janelle said. Parsha agreed,



blaming the lack of metal detectors for the feeling of an unsafe environment.

All these schools have hall monitors and security guards, yet these incidents have allegedly taken place. Are high schools really safe or is the media attention of violence in schools inflated?

According to Myrna B. Shure, author of "Raising A Thinking Child," students are safer in school than they think.

"The reality is that they are safer than we are led to believe, because the stories we hear in the news are often overly dramatized," Shure said. "There is more violence today than there was years ago, but it's not to the extent, where students should be afraid to go to school. Unsafe schools makes the students afraid to learn, they become stressed and unfocused, as a result of that they will not do well in school."

Shirley P. McDonald, who teaches violence prevention in schools at the University of Illinois at Chicago and works with their College of Social Work, said the problem around school safety could be greatly diminished if more parents were involved.

"Adolescents push boundaries when there's no one there that's going to stop them. They don't have any way of knowing how far is too far. Are schools today more violent than in the past? I think they're probably about equal. Things seem to be a little more violent, but I think, all in all, statistically that it's not that different in terms of school safety."

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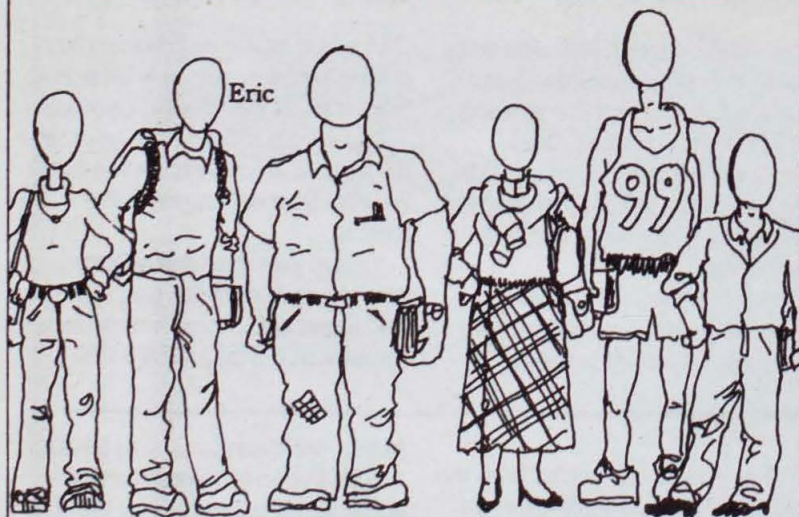
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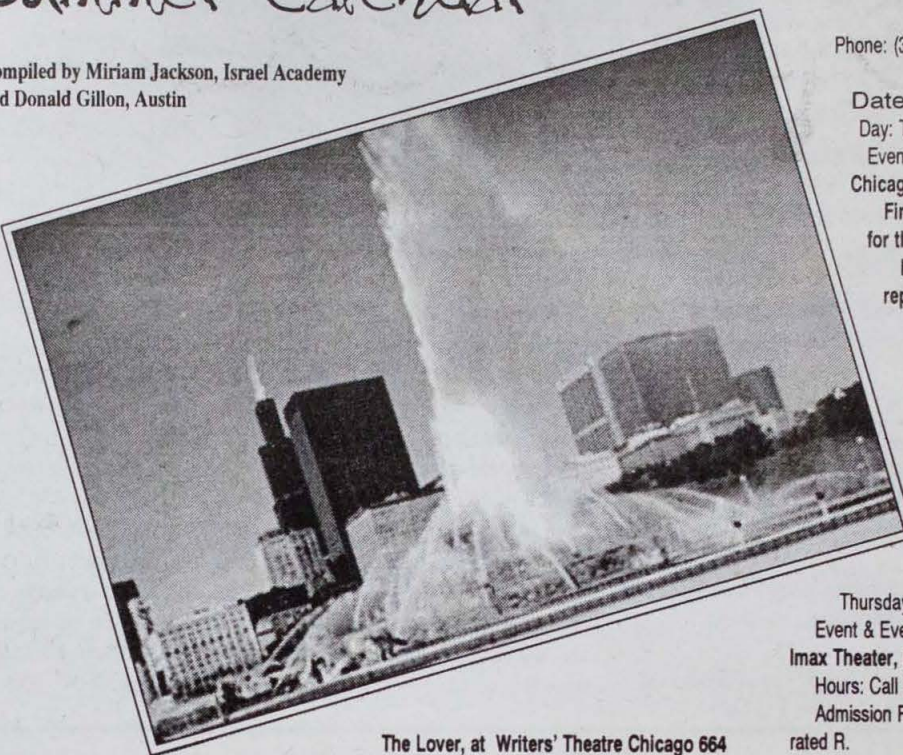
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New Expression Summer Calendar

Compiled by Miriam Jackson, Israel Academy
and Donald Gillon, Austin



Phone: (312) 747-6915

Date: June 18
Day: Thursday
Event: Summer Vacation for the
Chicago Public School starts.
Final deadline for students enrolling
for the 1998-99 school year.
Final Chicago Public School
report cards distributed.

Date: June 21-
August 13
Day: Monday
Event: Summer School
Sessions Begin

Date: June 19 -
June 25
Day: Friday through

Thursday
Event & Event location: "The Full Monty,"
Imax Theater, Navy Pier, 700 E. Grand Ave.
Hours: Call for exact times
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$8, Movie is
rated R.
Phone: (312) 644-IMAX

Date: June 21
Day: Sunday
Event: Father's Day

Date: June 25 - July 5
Day: Thursday through Sunday
Event & Event location: Taste of Chicago,
Grant Park
Hours: Call for exact time
Admission Fee & Age groups: Free admission,
food prices vary; all ages
Phone: (312) 744-3370

Date: June 26 - July 2
Day: Friday-Thursday
Event & Event location: "Jackie Brown," Navy
Pier, IMAX Theater, 700 E. Grand Ave.
Hours: Call for exact times.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$8, Movie is
rated R.
Phone: (312) 644-IMAX.

Date: June 26 - 27
Day: Friday & Saturday
Event & Event location: Chicago Country
Music Festival
Hours: Call for exact times and location.
Admission Fee & Age groups: Call for more
details.
Phone: (312) 744-3370

Date: June 28
Day: Sunday
Event & Event location: Race to Taste, Grant
Park
Hours: Call for exact time.
Admission Fee & Age groups: Call for more
details.
Phone: (312) 744-3370

Date: June 29 - August 5
Day: Mondays - Fridays
Event & Event Location: Youth
Communication's Summer Urban Journalism
Workshop, Roosevelt University, 431 S.
Wabash, Room 888
Hours: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: No fee, 13-19
Phone: (312) 922-7150

Calendar continued on page 13...

June

Date: June 1 - 4
Day: Monday through Thursday
Event & Event location: "Days of Thunder,"
Navy Pier IMAX Theater, 700 E. Grand Ave.
Hours: Call for show times
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$8, Movie is PG-
13.
Phone: (312) 644-IMAX.

Date: June 1 - November 29
Day: Sunday - Saturday
Event & Event location: "Voyage of a Nation"
The Philippines," The Field Museum, Roosevelt
Road at Lake Shore Drive
Hours: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Admission Fee \$4-7, All ages
Phone: (312) 322-8859

Date: June 4 - 7
Day: Thursday through Sunday
Event & Event location: Chicago Blues
Festival at Grant Park
Hours: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: No fee, all ages
Phone (312) 744-3370

Date: June 4 - 11
Day: Thursday through Thursday
Event & Event location: "Interview With The
Vampire," Navy Pier IMAX Theater, 700 E. Grand
Ave.
Hours: Call for show times
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$8, Movie is
rated R.
Phone: (312) 644-IMAX.

Date: June 7
Day: Sunday
Event & Event location: Phantom Of The Opera
at Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Street
Hours: Call for exact times
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$14.50 - \$67.00,
all ages.
Phone: (312) 902-1500

Date: June 7
Day: Sunday
Event & Event location: The Dumb Wait and

The Lover, at Writers' Theatre Chicago 664
Vernon Ave, Glencoe
Hours: Call for exact times
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$17.50, all ages
Phone: (847) 835-5398

Date: June 12-14
Day: Friday through Sunday
Event & Event location: Chicago Gospel
Festival, Grant Park
Hours: Call for exact time
Admission Fee & Age groups: No Fee, all ages
Phone: (312) 744-3370

Date: June 12 - 18
Day: Friday through Thursday
Event & Event location: "L.A. Confidential,"
Navy Pier IMAX Theater, 700 E. Grand Ave.
Hours: Call for show times
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$8, Movie is rated
R.
Phone: (312) 644-IMAX

Date: June 14
Day: Sunday
Event & Event location: Humana's I Feel Good
Run & Walk
Hours: Call for exact time and location
Admission Fee & Age groups: Call for fees and
age groups
Phone (312) 744-3370

Date: June 14
Day: Sunday
Event & Event location: "The Man Who Came
To Dinner," at Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N.
Halsted
Hours: Call for exact times.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$31.50-\$36.50
Phone: (312) 335-1650.

Date: June 14
Day: Sunday
Event & Event location: "Black Friday at D.
Live Bait", 3914 N. Clark
Hours: Call for exact times.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$15
Phone: (773) 871-1212.

Date: June 15 - August 8
Day: Monday through Saturday
Event & Event location: Summer Reading
Program, Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S.
Halsted Street
Hours: Call for hours and age groups
Admission Fee: Free

New Expression's 1998

Top 100 Teens

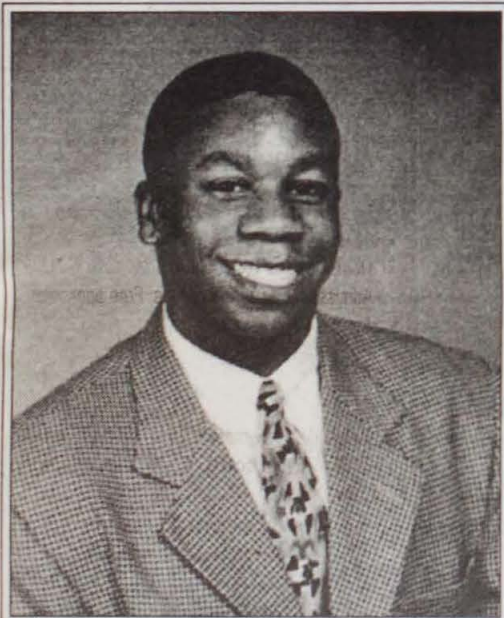
Top 100 Teens

Compiled by NE Teen Staff

Coordinated by Nnenna Owunmelu, St. Scholastica and Natasha Taylor, Lincoln Park

Tired of hearing about the shortcomings and failures of this generation, we challenged schools, community groups, churches and teens to nominate young people who are making positive contributions to society.

Your responses showed that your ears have become numb to the negative statements about youth. So we offer this year's edition of NE's Top 100 Teens of Chicago.



Jason Reynolds

Jason Reynolds, 16, is a junior at Morgan Park. Jason is on the school's honor roll and heads up the school's Bible Club. He has led his neighborhood clean-up campaigns.

Chiymelle Proby, 18, senior at Morgan Park, is a member of the National Honor Society. But what's more remarkable, is that she has never missed a day of high school, according to her senior counselor.

Jose Bello, 17, junior at Taft, is an award winning student of the school's science fairs. For the past two years, he has won the school's science fair. He also has 4.3 GPA and is ranked second among 312 students in the junior class.

Eddie Harmon, 17, is a senior at South Side College Prep. Eddie is the class president and a member of the school's basketball team. He maintains a 3.0 grade point average.

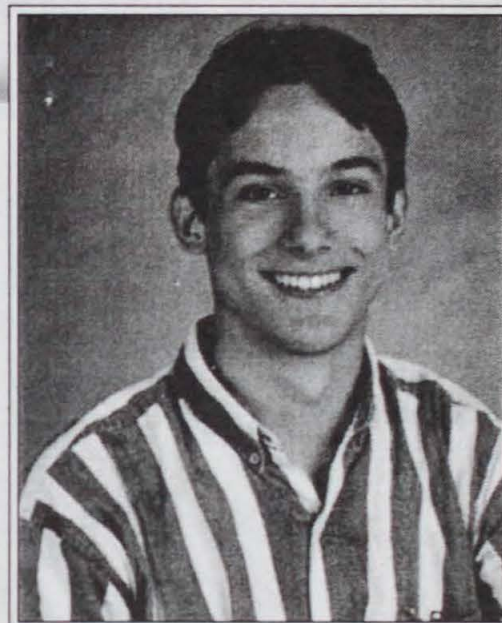
Nydia Soto, 17, is valedictorian of her graduating class at Mather High School. She is in the National Honor Society, Key Club, an Illinois State Scholar, and has been on the Soccer team for three years. She will



Chiymelle Proby

be attending Colombia University in the fall, majoring in Pre-Medicine.

Ryan Edel, 18, is valedictorian of his graduating class at Lincoln Park High School. He is president of Student Council and has a grade point average of 5.17. He will be attending Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.



Jose Bello

Asa D. Smith, 17, senior at Harper, has been on the honor roll all four years of high school. He also tutors elementary students and counsels troubled youth.

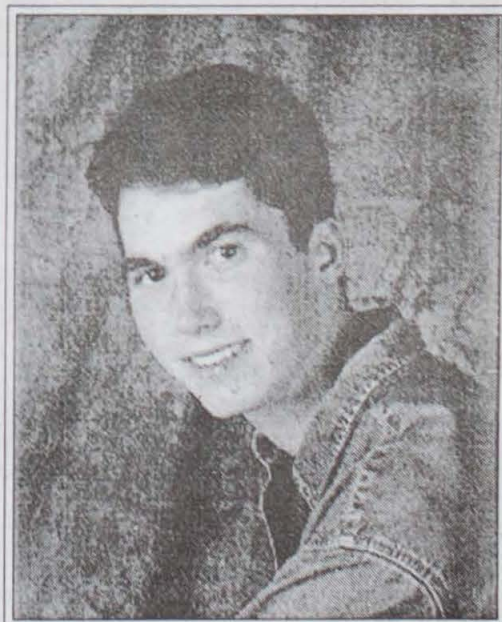
Novella Stamps, 17, sophomore, at Harper, is an enthusiastic cheerleader who is just as excited about her grades. She is on the honor roll and was selected as one of the top cheerleaders in Chicago, which allowed her to compete in a national competition in Florida.

Jifelle Roman, 17, is valedictorian of her graduating class at Kelvyn Park High School. She is in the Key Club, Aspira, and Snowball. She will be attending Northern Illinois University in the fall, majoring in Pre-Medicine.

Tonisha Swenson, 17, is valedictorian of her graduating class at King High School and will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago, majoring in Design.

Jennifer Ebie, 17, is a senior at The Latin School of Chicago, who devotes her time helping in school plays.

continued on page 6



Ryan Edel

Top 100 Teens

She is an active member of her church youth volunteer programs.

Tiffany Hudson, 18, is a senior at Du Sable High School where she has been on the honor roll for three and a half years. She writes for the school newspaper, and performs with the Music Theater Workshop at the Field Museum.

ing University of Illinois at Chicago, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Tiffany Chapman, 17, a senior at Julian, is salutatorian of her graduating class. She is a cheerleader and on the pom-pom squad. She is also in the National Honor Society and Student Council. She plans to attend University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, majoring in Computer Engineering.

Tyree Patterson, 18, is valedictorian of his graduating class at Hirsch. He will be attending Fisk University, majoring in Accounting/Business Finance.

Sarah Krejca, 17, is a senior at Morgan Park and the valedictorian. She is captain of his swim team and the water polo team. She has been in the National Honor Society for four years. She will be attending Purdue University this fall, majoring in Zoology.

William Collins, 16, is a sophomore at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. He is president of his sophomore class with a grade point average of 4.25. He is also an All-American Scholar.

Danny Arroyo, 16, sophomore at Holy Trinity, won first place in a mock trial tournament sponsored by the National Hispanic Institute. He also serves on the student senate.

Shelley Waite, 17, is a senior at Lincoln Park High School, where she is a part of the International Baccalaureate curriculum, a program designed to give youngsters a world-class education in liberal arts. She also placed at the top of this year's *Chicago Tribune's*, "Illinois High School All-State Academic Team."

Jessica M. Blich, 17, senior at Taft, is a great student and athlete. She played center for the school's volleyball team and in basketball, she led

continued on page 7

Elaine M. Smith, 14, Hyde Park, is a freshman at Hyde Park. Although she just started school, she is already a member of the student council and is a member of the school's volleyball and bowling teams. She also tutors children in her neighborhood.

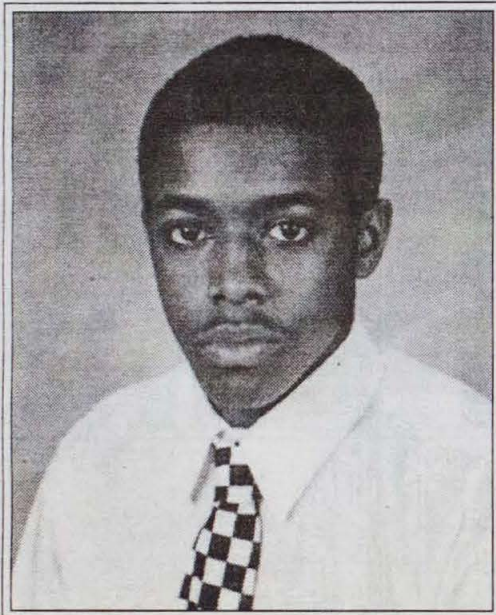
Bartosz Jach, 18, senior at Taft, tutors and volunteers at the school's social center, as well as summer programs. He has a 3.6 GPA.

Denise Barahona, 17, is a senior at Mather High School and a frequent moderator for the 'Teen Moms Only' Show on Channel 21. She has interviewed notables including Aurelia Pucinski, the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

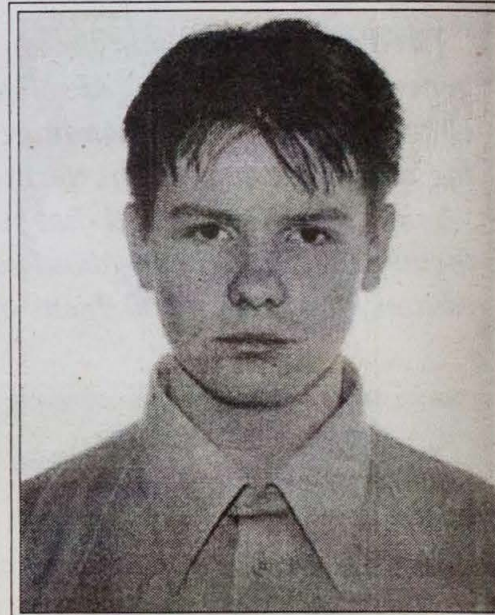
Eric McConnell, 18, a senior at DuSable, serves on the advisory board for the school's Urban Ecology Sanctuary Project. He is Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper and also serves as a Youth Minister at his church.

Nkasi Okafor, 17, is a senior at Whitney Young where she maintains a 4.22 GPA on a scale of 4.0. She is a member of the Key Club, National Honor Society and co-captain of the tennis and track teams.

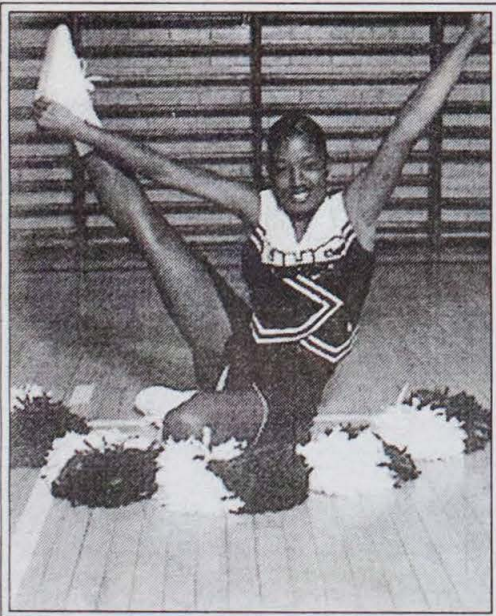
Angela Biggins, 17, is a senior at Julian and the school's valedictorian. She is in the National Honor Society, Principal Scholars' List, Student Council, and has been on the honor roll for four years. She has also won the Women Engineering Award. She plans on attend-



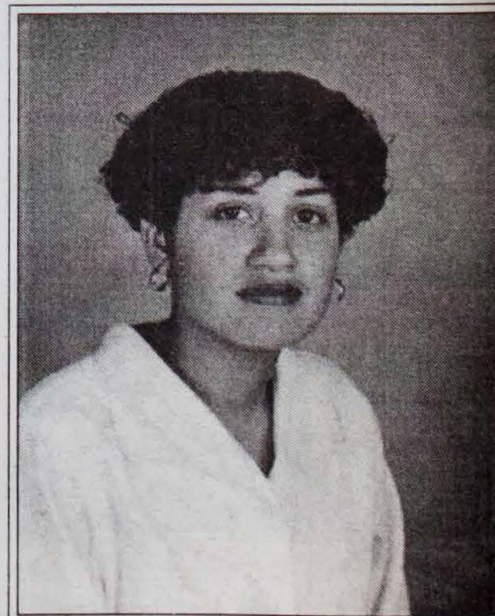
Asa D. Smith



Bartosz Jach



Novella Stamps



Denise Barahona

Top 100 Teens

the hoop squad to the district tournament championship. She also has a 3.5 GPA.

Nicholas Rivera, 18, senior at Taft, is ranked in the top 20 percent of his class, while maintaining outstanding athletic prowess. He is a member of the football and wrestling teams and carried a 3.1 GPA.

Aureus Chandler, 17, senior at St. Barbara, is the class president. She has participated in the Role Models and Leaders program, sponsored by the Center of Excellence in Education. Additionally, she took part in the Chicago Tutorial Initiative, which allowed her to tutor fifth graders in public schools.

Darren Pipkins, 18, senior at Harper, spends a lot of time educating his peers about the dangers of teen pregnancy and AIDS. He has also been on the honor roll all four years and is ranked in the top 10 percent of his class.

Fard Muhammad, 18, is a senior at Whitney Young High School and has achieved many accomplishments. He is on the Communications Committee of the National Honor Society. He is a Principal's Scholar and developed his own computer animation film which was presented at the Atari Jaguar Festival.

Seprina Redmond, 15, freshman at Collins, serves on the student council at her school and has been on the honor roll all year. She leads clean up efforts in her neighborhood in addition to volunteering to tutor students at her former grammar school.

Wonea Loftin, 17, senior at Dunbar, is the president of her school's principal scholars program and has maintained a 3.8 - 4.0 while working a part-time job.

Jason Lucas, 18, a senior at Hales Franciscan, maintained a 4.3 GPA on a 4.0 scale. This past summer, Jason was

selected to take part in his school's Summer of Enlightenment Program, which took him to the Academy of Paris in Paris, France and presented him with the chance to receive two 'A's in both of his classes. He is also a member of the school's track, basketball and football teams.

Dennis Stoia, 18, senior at Bogan, is not only the valedictorian of the school, but he is also actively involved in many outside activities. He is the lead organist at his church and has received LaSalle Street, Illinois and Chicago Scholar honors.

Jessika Maldonado, 17, senior at Lane Tech, volunteers as a teacher's aid at a day care center and as the assistant coach of Our Lady of Mercy's girls basketball team. She is the captain of her school's tennis team and has a 3.8 GPA.

Tiffany Beal, 18, senior at Corliss, led a successful drive to get uniforms for the school's marching band, after writing letters to the Chicago Board of Education. She is also a member of the senior senate and volunteers with the school's freshman academy.

Hector Delarosa, 16, junior at Hubbard, is ranked number one in his junior class, and has been an "A" honor roll student for three years. He runs track and plays volleyball in addition to his National Honor Society status.

LaTasha T. Burl, 17, senior at Bogan, has been an honor roll student all four years of high school. She is in the process of having her first book of poetry published.

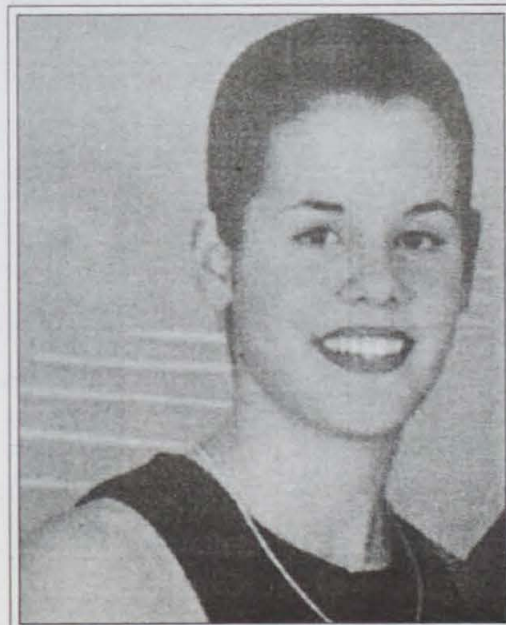
Bindi Thakkar, 17, is a junior at Bogan High School, where she is ranked number one in her class. She is vice-president of the International Club, and an avid volunteer of Lohana Association of Greater Chicago.

Dana Burnett, 13, an eighth-

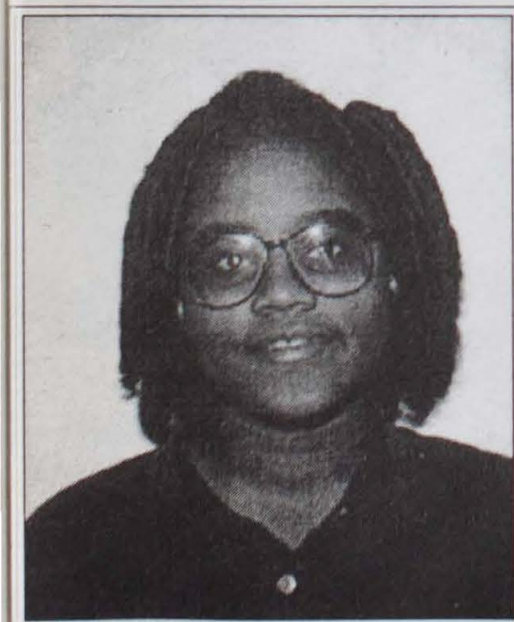
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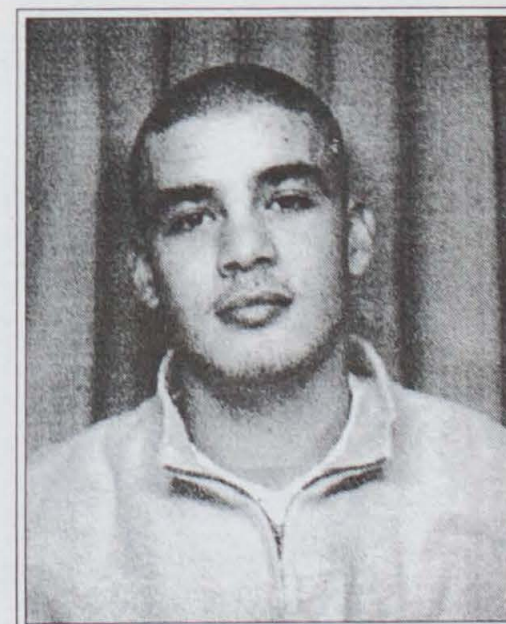
William Collins



Jessika M. Blitch



Shelley Waite



Nicholas Rivera

Top 100 Teens

grader at Pritzker Elementary who works earnestly for the school and the community. She has worked as stage manager at a recent play at her school. She organized 45 grade school students to recite lines and choreograph dances.

Jaime Yvonne Smith, 16, senior at Providence-St. Mel, volunteers at Missionaries of Charities Soup Kitchen, where she prepares food and serves homeless and poor people. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and has been on the honor roll throughout high school.

DeJuana Collins, 13, is an honor student at Lawrence Elementary. She is president and choir director at Christ of Truth Center Church.

Kiashia Williams, 17, senior at Corliss, has plans to be big in the broadcast world. She is the producer of a TV news program at her school and is a radio personality at Kennedy-King College.

Kendra Young, 18, senior at Kennedy, has demonstrated great leadership skills in school. She is a member of the Peer Leadership Club and was a member of the school's "Know Your Heritage" team, which won first place. She also is a "big sister" to freshmen who are having problems.

Leah Thigpen, 17, junior at Kenwood, was the only student selected to represent the United States at a student editorial conference in London, England.

Dana Clinton, 18, is a senior at Whitney Young and a National Achievement Scholar. She will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she will major in business.

Woodlyne Jean Charles, 17, senior at Simeon, is a third year member and captain of the 1998 U.S. Academic

Decathlon team and led the team to the city finals. She is also the president of the National Honor Society at her school and vice-president of the senior class.

Sabrina Tiller, 17, senior at Harper, took first place in cheerleading at Northern Illinois University and has been the assistant cheerleader coach at her school for two years. Harper's "most valuable cheerleader" plans to attend the University of Tennessee to major in broadcasting or one of the sciences.

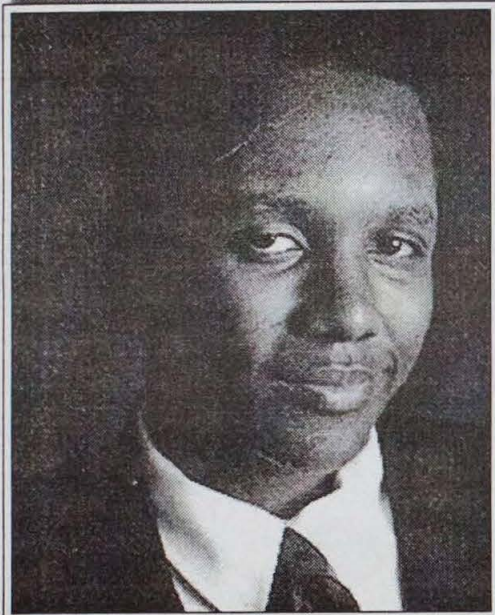
Happiness Akpan, 15, freshman at Senn, works to develop leadership skills and post high school education opportunities for youth in her community as a peer advisor. She is also a member of the Senn Youth Net in the Uptown/Edgewater community and a member of the advisory group of Girl's Best Friend Foundation.

Latasha White, 18, senior at Taft, led her basketball team to victory in the district tournament and a spot in the regionals.

Jocelyn White, 18, senior at Kenwood, has a 3.6 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society and Role Models and Leaders Program. However, her ability to overcome her parents divorce and subsequent financial problems are an even greater inspiration.

Floyd White, 17, a senior at Farragut, led the Admirals varsity football team to the Public League Intra-City North section title and the first ever Intra-City championship game. White, who was named Most Improved Player on the varsity team, will attend Joliet Community College in the fall.

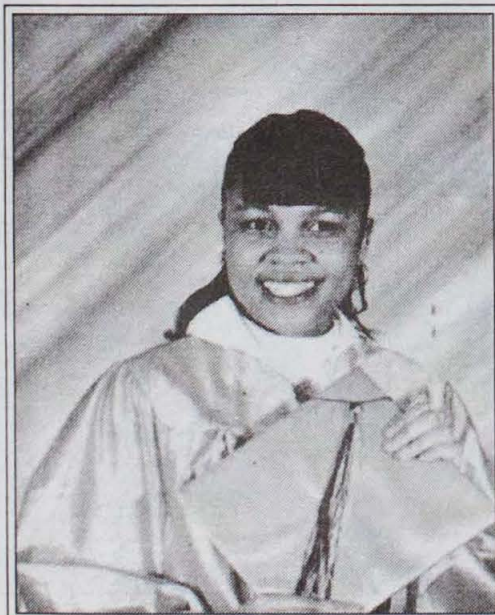
Consuella Moore, 16, is a junior at South Shore, where she is ranked No. 1 in her junior class of 214. Her aspirations in life are to be either a lawyer or an actress. Last year, Moore finished



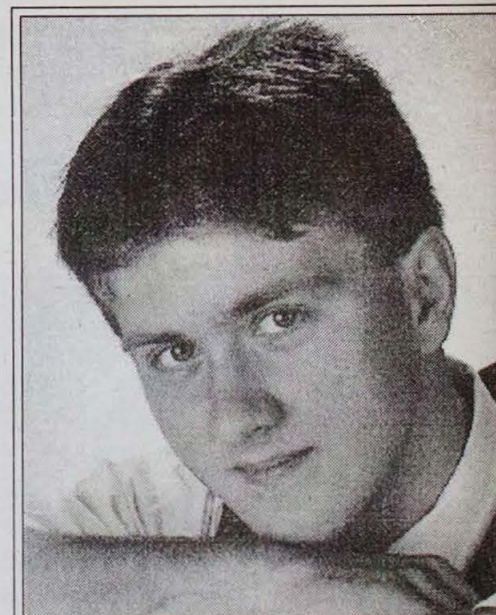
Fard Muhammad



Wonea Loftin



Seprina Redmond



Dennis Stoia

continued on page 9

Top 100 Teens

fourth in the 200 meter and fifth in the 100 meter races in the Class AA state meet, and is one of the favorites to win the state championship in these events.



Jessika Maldonado

Clifford Murkey, 18, a senior at Chicago Vocational Academy, had lettered in basketball in all four years. His senior season was most memorable as he led the Cavaliers' basketball team to a Public Red-South section title and a berth in the Public League semifinals. Murkey has chosen to attend New Mexico State, where he will major in Computer Programming.

Dennis Butler, 17, is a senior at Simeon and lettered in both football and baseball for four years. Butler, led the varsity football team in rushing with 1,200 yards and to the quarterfinals of the city playoffs last season. He also helped the Simeon varsity baseball team to the city title game last year and is leaning towards attending Grambling State University.

Candice Peoples, 16, a junior at South Shore, lettered as a three-sport athlete in volleyball, basketball and track. Peoples led the Tarettes' girls volleyball team to the Public Blue-South section title and the city playoffs, while making the All Blue-South section team in girls basketball.

Imari Sawyer, 15, is a sophomore at King, where he has been the starting point guard on King's varsity basketball team since his freshman year. Last season, Sawyer paced the Jaguars to its 17th Public Red-Central section crown and first city championship game appearance since 1994. He was named a second-year All-Public League and Chicago Sun-Times All-Area selection, as well.

Sabrina Minter, 17, is a senior at Marshall, where she led the Commandos to a 19th Public League championship and a second straight Class AA third place trophy. Minter was named



Tiffany Beal

an All-Public League and Chicago Sun-Times All-Area selection for the fourth year in a row. She was also named the Public League Girls' All-Academic Player of the Year with a 3.2 G.P.A.

Rausell Harvey, 18, is a senior at Dunbar and the state's all-time football rushing leader with over 7,500 yards. He led the Mighty Men's varsity team to its second straight Public League championship and first Prep Bowl championship last season. Harvey, who also scored 112 touchdowns in his three-year varsity career, has chosen the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana as his college choice.

William Winters, 19, a senior at St. Benedict, has been a Youth Leader at the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club (NBGC) since 1994. He was the first to win a 6th "Achievement Award" representing loyalty and sportsmanship. He was awarded a \$3,000 college scholarship from NBGC for the 1998-99 school year. William is also a member of the St. Benedict varsity baseball team. He is interested in a career in business.

Charles Otto, 17, a junior at Lane Tech is a Youth Leader at The Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club (NBGC) since 1994. Charles was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship by NBGC. He is currently a member of the only Chicago Public School Lacrosse team. Charles is interested in studying child psychology.

Gibert Ruiz IV, 17, is a junior at St. Benedict, was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship by The Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club (NBGC). He is an active volunteer at NBGC fundraisers and is the vice-president of the Paul Revere Park Teen Club.

Julie Drakers, 17, a junior at Whitney Young is involved in the Key



LaTasha T. Burl



Bindi Thakkar

continued on page 10

Top 100 Teens

Club International, Varsity Volleyball and Softball, Yearbook Staff, Peer Leadership, Future Business Leaders of America and the school newspaper. She has also been on the honor roll 6 times.

Crystal Powe, 18, a senior at Gage Park ranks 6th in her graduating class. She has maintained a grade point average of 3.9 on 4.0 scale while captain of the pom-pom squad for 2 1/2 years. She has been on the "A" Honor Roll for four years. She plans to attend Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville majoring in Computer Information Systems.

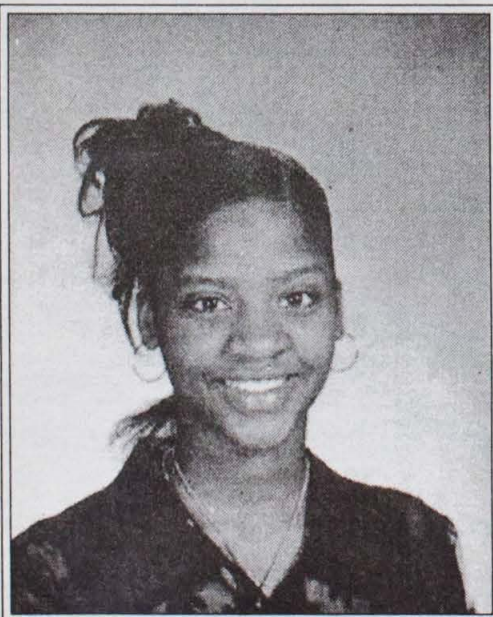


Dana Burnett

Dana Matthews, 18, a senior at Gage Park, is in the top 2 percent of her graduating class. She volunteers in fundraisers and youth events at her church. In February, she was a finalist to represent the U.S. in

an international event, as a contributing writer for a book which was to be published in London, England. This fall she will be attending University of Illinois at Chicago, majoring in Computer Science/Engineering.

Agnes Stachurska, 17, attends Prologue, an alternative high school that doesn't have grades. She educated other youth about AIDS and AIDS prevention through Cook County Hospital's Chicago Youth Against AIDS. She is also an advisor to the Girl's Best Friend Foundation.



DeJuana Collins

Sandtricia Davis, 15, a sophomore at Chicago Vocational Academy, has maintained a cumulative 3.82 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Sandtricia has participated in the 'Little Rock Nine' at the University of Chicago, the National Conference of Christian and Jews, and served as a youth council member at city hall in Chicago.

De Corda McGee, 16, a junior at Chicago Vocational Academy, is outstanding for his academic achievement and participation in his school and community. He was selected to present

the "Humanitarian Award of the Year" to Mayor Daley at the Palmer House Hotel. He is also a peer counselor for Freshman and Sophomore male students.

Ulyssia Dennis, 15, is a sophomore at Bowen, and ranks second in her class. She is involved in JROTC and tutors grammar and high school students, as well.

Weiching Mach, 18, is a senior at Amundsen. Weiching is the valedictorian and plans to attend either the University of Illinois at Chicago or DePaul University.

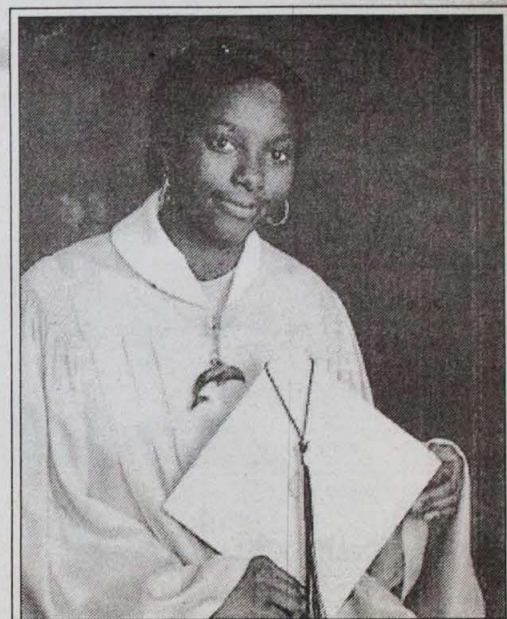
Chloe Escoto, 16, sophomore at Richards, promotes safe sex by working as a street educator with Project Vida in Little Village and participates in her church youth group. She also is an advisor to the Girl's Best Friend Foundation.

Wendy Cozar, 18, is a senior at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. Wendy is the valedictorian and plans to attend either the University of Illinois (at Chicago) or University of Nebraska.

Jennifer Mayer, 16, junior at Latin, is a member of the Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), AIDS Awareness Club, Community Service Club and participates in two religious youth groups. She is also an advisor to the Girl's Best Friend Foundation.

Sandra Jackson, 18, is a senior at Chicago Vocational Academy where she is the valedictorian. Sandra plans to attend Xavier University.

Nicole Crawford, 18, is the first valedictorian from the Future Commons Multiplex, one of the newest schools in the Chicago Public School system. Among her college choices is Chicago State University.



Kiashia Williams



Kendra Young

top 100 teens

1997-98 Golden Apple Award Winners (Chicago winners)



Dana Clinton

The Golden Apple Foundation houses the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program. This program recruits and prepares bright and talented juniors for successful teaching careers in high need schools throughout Illinois.

Recipients receive scholarships for four years and must attend one of 24 selected state colleges or universities. After scholars earn a bachelor's degree, they must obtain an Illinois teacher certification and teach for five years in a school where teachers are sorely needed.

The Chicago winners are:

Ruth Abraham,
Hubbard

Marya Almaraz,
Notre Dame

Jessica Castellanas,
Whitney Young

Adam Davis,
Gordon Tech

Dennis Constanzo,
Lane Tech

Sara Gaitan,
Holy Trinity

Norma Guitierrez,
Wells

Elizabeth Johnson,
Kenwood

Araceli Lopez,
Lourdes

Lisa Lyons,
Hubbard

Tashona Marshall,
Chicago Vocational

Michelle Moore,
Lourdes

Kelley Morrissey,
Whitney Young

Michael Seraphin,
St. Ignatius

Ernest Williams,
Chicago Vocational

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One of the
City Colleges of Chicago

top 100 teens

1998 National Merit Scholarship Winners

Every year the National Merit Scholarship Program offers college money to thousands of the nation's most outstanding seniors. Only students who represent the upper one half of 1 percent of high school graduates in each state are selected as finalists for the awards.

National Merit Finalists can expect to be highly sought after by the nation's leading schools.

Here are the winners from Chicago. Their college choices were unavailable at press time.

Maria Ahn,

Lane Tech

Ryan J. Edel,

Lincoln Park

Andrew J. Rodriguez,

Lincoln Park

Colin G. Harris, Kenwood

Amber K. Lavicka,

Whitney Young

Kendyl A. Paulus,

Mother McCauley

Claudia J. Cyganowski,

University of Chicago Lab School

Yuki Yamaguchi,

University of Chicago Lab School

Emma A.

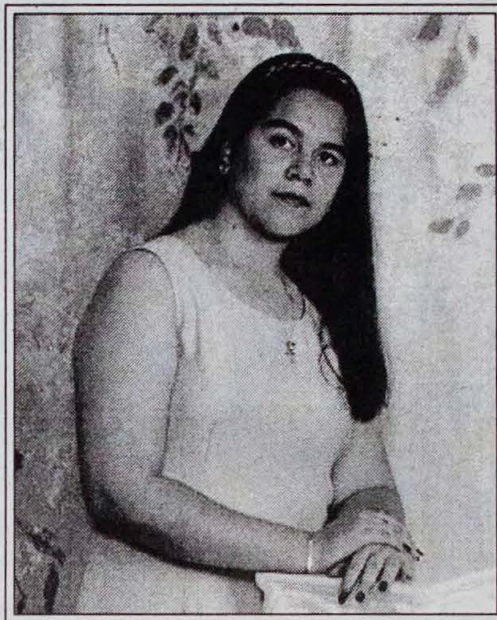
Haddad,

St. Ignatius

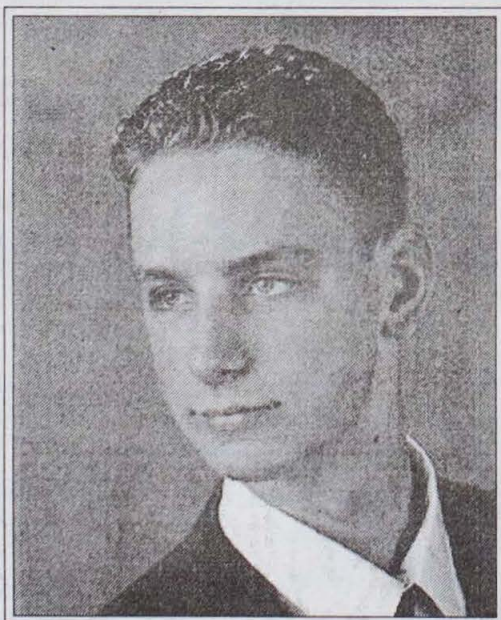
Belina E.

Mizrahi,

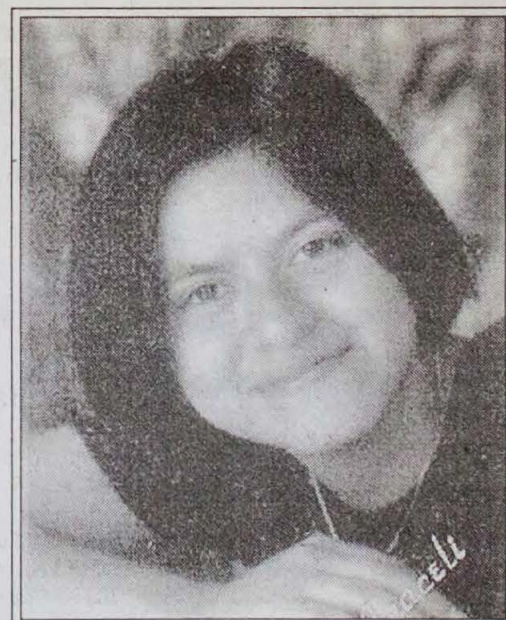
Lincoln Park



Jessica Castellanas



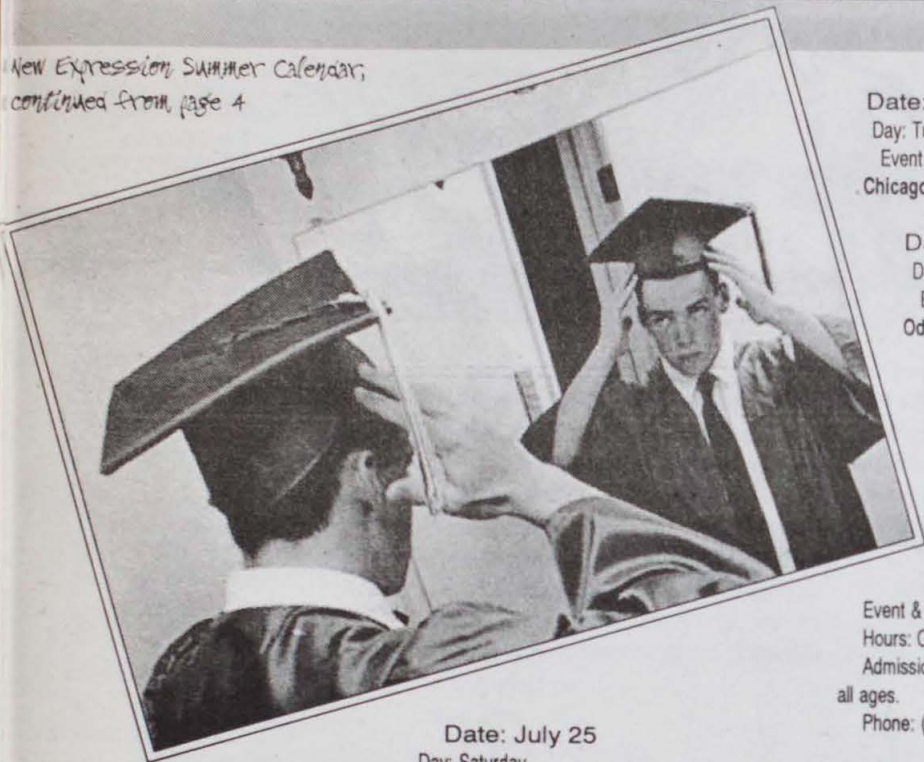
Adam Davis



Araceli Lopez



New Expression Summer Calendar,
continued from page 4



July

Date: July 2
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "War of the Worlds," Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lakeshore Drive.
Hours: Films start at 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5 & Passes are \$35.
Phone: (312) 322-0329

Date: July 3 - 9
Day: Friday through Thursday
Event & Event location: "Independence Day," Navy Pier IMAX Theater, 700 E. Grand Ave.
Hours: Call for exact times
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$8, Movie is rated R.
Phone: Call (312) 644-IMAX.

Date: July 4
Day: Saturday
Event: Fourth of July Celebration, Grant Park's Monroe Harbor
(America's 222nd birthday)

Date: July 4
Day: Saturday
Event & Event location: Fourth of July Celebration, Abbot Park, 49 E. 95th St.
Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: No admission, all ages.
Phone: (773) 264-1298

Date: July 9
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "The Time Machine" at the Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Hours: Film begins at 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5, all age groups
Phone: (312) 322-0329

Date: July 16
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "It Came From Outer Space" at the Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Hours: 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5, all ages.
Phone: (312) 322-0329

Date: July 18 & 19
Day: Saturday and Sunday
Event & Event location: Mayor's Cup Youth Soccer Fest, Montrose & Lake Shore Drive
Hours: Call for exact hours.
Admission Fee & Age groups: Free, all ages
Phone: (312) 744-3370

Date: July 25
Day: Saturday
Event & Event location: Venetian Night, Grant Park's Monroe Harbor
Hours: Call for exact hours.
Admission Fee & Age groups: Free, all ages
Phone: (312) 744-3370

Date: July 30
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," at the Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive.
Hours: 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5, all ages
Phone: (312) 332-0329

August

Date: August 1 - 2
Day: Saturday and Sunday
Event & Event location: The Eighth Annual Shoot The Bull 3-on-3 Tournament, at Grant Park, Jackson Boulevard and Columbus Streets.
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$160 per team, ages 14-16 and 17-19
Phone: (312) 454-4000

Date: August 6
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "THX 1138," Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive.
Hours: 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5, all ages.
Phone: (312) 322-0329

Date: August 13
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," at the Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Hours: Show start at 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5, all ages.
Phone: (312) 322-0329

Date: August 20
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "Tron" Adler Planetarium 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Hours: 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5, all ages.
Phone: (312) 322-0329

Date: August 22 - 23
Day: Saturday through Sunday
Event & Event location: Chicago Air & Water Show, North Ave. Beach
Hours: Call for exact times
Admission Fee & Age groups: Free, all ages
Phone: (312) 744-2964

Date: August 25
Day: Tuesday
Event & Event location: Classes resume at Chicago Public High Schools.

Date: August 27
Day: Thursday
Event & Event location: "2001 A Space Odyssey" Adler Planetarium, 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Hours: 7:00 p.m.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$5, all ages
Phone: (312) 332-0329

Date: August 29 - 30
Day: Saturday through Sunday
Event & Event location: Viva! Chicago Show
Hours: Call for exact times.
Admission Fee & Age groups: Free admission, all ages.
Phone: (312) 744-3370

September

Date: September 3 - 6
Day: Thursday through Saturday
Event & Event location: Chicago Jazz Fest, Grant Park.
Hours: Call for more details
Admission Fee & Age groups: Free admission, all ages
Phone: (312) 744-3370

Date: September 5
Day: Saturday
Event & Event location: Ancient West Mexico exhibit, Art Institute, 111 S. Michigan Avenue
Hours: Call for exact times.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$3.50 for students, all ages
Phone: (312) 443-3600

Date: September 7
Day: Monday
Event: Labor Day

Date: September 19
Day: Saturday
Event & Event location: CPS-Children First Walk for Funds
Hours: Call for hours, fees and age groups
Phone: (312) 744-3370 or (773) 535-3760

Date: September 19 - January 10, 1999
Event & Event location: Julia Margaret Cameron's Women photo exhibit, Art Institute, 111 S. Michigan Avenue
Hours: Call for exact times.
Admission Fee & Age groups: \$3.50 for students
Phone: (312) 443-3600

Date: September 21
Day: Sunday
Event: Rosh Hashanah (The Jewish New Year)

Date: September 30
Day: Wednesday
Event: Yom Kippur (Jewish Holiday representing a day of atonement)

Columbia College Chicago announces High School Summer Institute "SUMMER IN THE CITY" 1998

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- Animation
- Art
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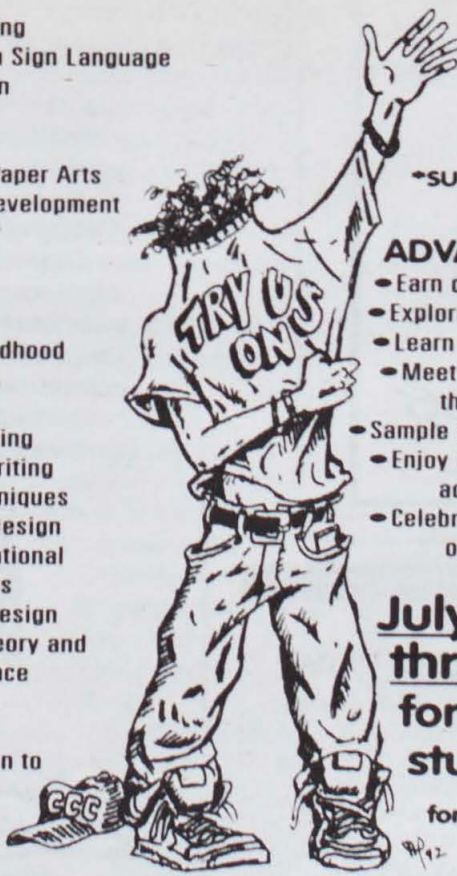
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COLUMBIA



"What is the best way for teens to spend summer?"

1st Place
Katherine Szankowski
Lane Tech

Summer is a time to get away from the everyday routine. Summer would be best spent relaxing, traveling, and planning ahead. This way, teenagers get to enjoy the things they usually cannot fit into their regular schedules.

At first, relaxing is essential. Summer is a

good time to sleep for as long as needed, and not have to worry about hurrying about. Their time needs to be, in fact, their time. During the school year students have deadlines to meet and projects to complete. Students stress their bodies to meet the demands of others, during the school year. During the summer they should set a lifestyle that's not activity free, but comfortably active. Paying attention to their bodies is essential.

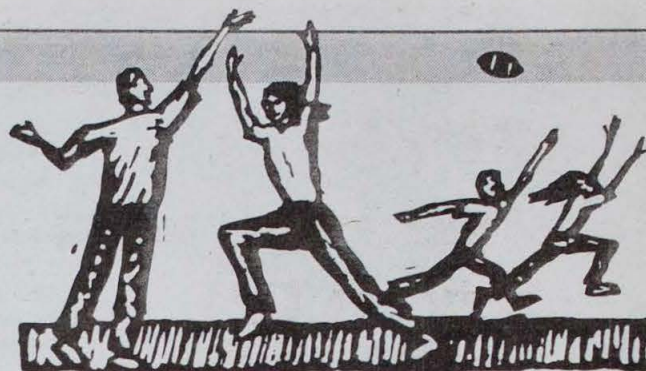
Students should spend the summer traveling to places they have never seen before, particularly visiting college campuses or working on jobs that related to their career interests. Teens can also take summer sessions to earn college credit.

Not all teens will follow these suggestions, but the majority of them will have at least one of them in mind. Teens should spend their time doing something that makes them feel like they are on vacation, and not striving for someone else. Spending the summer tiring themselves out is not the answer. Teens have decades ahead of them to work hard. They should enjoy their youth one hundred percent of the time.

2nd place
Oscar Yau
Whitney Young

Summer vacation is no doubt a time for relaxing and fun for teens. However, teens should not squander away their time during the summer with petty activities. Instead, they should use their time wisely and work productively. The best way to spend the summer is to either work, learn new concepts, or volunteer. By being active, time will quickly pass and teens will have an easy transition back to school in the fall.

Working during the summer can enhance teens' views of the world. They would have early job experience that would greatly prepare them for future career opportunities. Teens also would receive some financial support from summer employment. Even a mere hundred dollars would benefit teens as a contribution toward college fees and tuition.



3rd place
Teodoro Vehar,
Lane Tech

What you choose to do with your time is up to you. Most teens will choose to waste away on their living room

couches getting bad sun tans through TV radiation. Some will leave sweat stains the size of their bodies permanently imprinted on the couch. Of course, to every rule there is an exception. The smart ones will probably find a job or nearly die trying to. From this side of the world it just seems like the right thing to do. You know \$2,000 never hurt anyone. And just think how handy it could be. You could make a down payment on a car, computer, house...well maybe not a house, but the possibilities are endless. Besides, working the five or six hours of work keeps you out of trouble. Hey, that's what everybody says so it must be true. But all fooling aside, a summer job is a pretty constructive way to pass time. It prepares you for the big one, life. Besides earning you some

money, it helps you learn the ropes, gets you comfortable with interviews, annoying co-workers and the oh-so-holy pay day.

But as constructive as it may seem, the summer job gig does not include everybody. If you are thirteen or fourteen, what do you do then? There is still yet another way to spend your summer other than working or surfing the action packed channel waves of MTV. You could work on your studies and get ahead on school work. Go to summer school. No, I do not mean the gosh-darn-I-flunked-a-class-so-I'm-stuck-in-school-for-another-month type of summer school. I mean the I-paid-money-to-empty-out-classes-which-I-don't-feel-like-taking-so-I-can-party-senior-year type of summer school. Forget the summer job, save it for next year. Just look at the advantages of taking summer classes. You can take classes in subjects you'll enjoy and will probably get a good grade in.

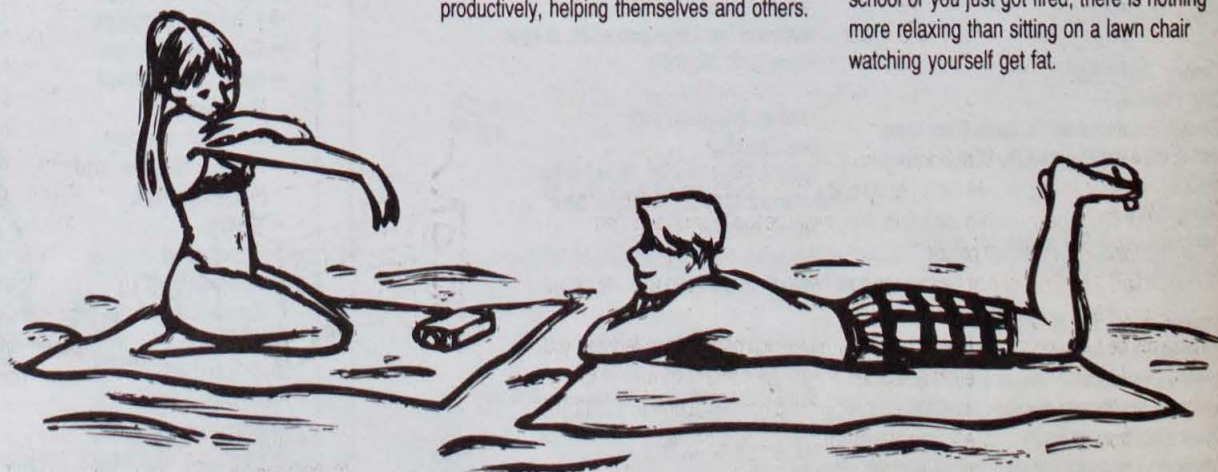
After banging my head on the floor for an hour trying to choose an angle to take for this essay, another concept hit me. Why not just use the summer doing both summer school and jobs? They are both equally good and both have advantages in their different ways. They are both healthy, constructive ways to pass the time away and after you're out of school or you just got fired, there is nothing more relaxing than sitting on a lawn chair watching yourself get fat.



teens who have difficulty comprehending certain concepts in math or English during the school year, can freshen up their skills during the summer. With some time and effort, one can learn and understand a lot in three months. New material introduced in summer school can no doubt prepare one for the coming school year. Also, getting a head start in core subjects can greatly benefit a teen in high school.

If neither working nor learning is suitable teens can do volunteer work. Helping people and the community can change the lives of many people. Participating in walk-a-thons, for example, is a good way to help fund organizations whose goal is solely to help the unfortunate. Serving food in soup kitchens to the homeless, reading to children, working with the poor are all service projects teens can do that will benefit others. Instead of wasting time watching television or shopping for unnecessary items during the summer, one can help others greatly by volunteering.

Summer is a time to relax and have fun but instead of wasting precious time and doing nothing, teens can spend the summer working, learning, or volunteering. So instead of squandering time away during the summer, teens should have fun and spend time productively, helping themselves and others.



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CDreview

By Shalamar Bernstein, Lincoln Park
Title: "Anchor for the Soul"
Band: PEJ
Price: \$12.00

With so many bands releasing CD's and getting air time, without any type of talent, it can be very hard to find music that is different. I came across a band that happens to come to the music scene with vitality and a freshness. That band is named PEJ.

The band is Chicago-based and, after buying the CD, one can really appreciate the music because it is extremely easy to listen to and very easy to like.

PEJ's music is different from what you hear on the radio. There is actual singing and vocals and the vocals are very clear. They are sung without being strained making them clear and melodic. The lyrics are being sung and not spoken or screamed and that contributed to the overall quality of the CD. The guitar and bass are ever present and in addition to the vocals, make a good sound that is appealing to the discerning listener. The percussion hammers out rhythms and beats that are not harsh or earsplitting, but are flowing and lay down the ground work for the other instruments to build around.

PEJ's "Anchor for the Soul" is quality music that appeals to the buyer with good taste.

NEtalks

Cam'ron comes out of the closet

By: Devin Haley, Triton College

Who is Cam'ron? Cameron "Cam'ron" Giles is a new artist on Entertainment Records. He co-wrote the award winning song "Crush on You" for platinum rap artist, "Lil Kim," and has been drafted to Entertainment Records, named after CEO Lance "Un" Rivera.

He was selected as an all-city basketball player while attending Manhattan Center High School in New York. He has played with the likes of Mase and Minnesota Timberwolves phenom Stephon Marbury.

A leg injury kept him from following Marbury into the next level of play, Cam'ron said.

Cam'ron grew up in Harlem and faced many challenges that today's teens face.

"It was tough because of drugs and crime, but I stayed focus in school and met the right people," Cam'ron said.

Cam'ron and rapper Mase were friends in high school and Mase played a major role in getting Cam'ron in the business. The friendship lead to the creation of his solo album which is scheduled for release this month.

"My life plays a part in my music. I took my life, my brother's life and put it all into my album," Cam'ron said.

While they are friends, Cam'ron describes his style as harder than Mase's. "I got more of a rugged style because Mase is like a Ladies Man. I switch up on every song to make sure the song doesn't sound the same. You might hear one song and then another and think it is a different person."

Cam'ron said it's important that teens keep their head on straight and avoid activities that could cut off their dreams.

"There will be teen pregnancy forever no matter how much protection or lectures you give them. As far as drugs, I am realist and drugs are always going to be around too," Cam'ron said. "It's just a matter of getting your sisters and cousins attention, and help them prevent from having kids at a young age and make the right decisions."

Cam'ron added he can relate to teens regarding peer pressure because of his own battles with peer pressure.

"People wanted me to smoke and have sex. You just have to make your own decisions," Cam'ron said.

TVreview

Teens and guns mix on TV

By Nnenna Onwunmelu, St. Scholastica

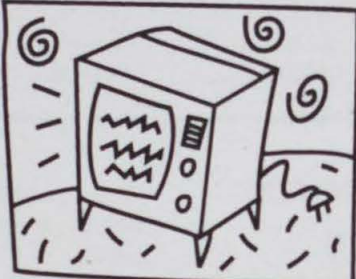
"In the Mix," a new, national PBS weekly series for teens, aired a special feature presentation of "Live by the Gun, Die by the Gun," which aired on May 19.

The inaugural "In the Mix," featured actor Billy Baldwin, rapper Chuck D. and "In the Mix" reporter, Andrea Barrow. The program shows ex-gang related teens who were physically affected by gun violence. Lonnie, a former gang member and drug dealer, talks about his notorious life of killing people. Lonnie is now paralyzed from the chest down.

Virginia, also an ex-gang member, talks about how she enjoyed holding a gun and doing drive-bys. Virginia was shot in the head, because of gun violence, and as a result she is blind.

Andrea Barrow, attends a youth group session for teens who have witnessed violence, or had family and friends injured or killed from it. This group teaches young people how to approach a tight situation, without resorting to violence.

Overall, the special was very interesting to watch because the teens are real people who can actually give their perspective about how teens are affected by gun violence.



NEtalks

WGCI's Bad Boys

By Ylayn Ousley, Whitney Young

When someone mentions Bad Boys, you might think of Puff Daddy and his crew. But if you listen to WGCI-107.5 FM from 6 to 10 p.m., it's Mike Love and The Diz. With antics that are truly theirs alone, Mike Love and Diz have managed to lock down their place in the hearts of Chicago's teen listeners.

Many listeners enjoy the Bad Boys in general, but have a favorite segment. The segment known as "All Eyes On Me" gives callers a chance to represent their neighborhood and themselves.

"They talk the way (teens) talk. They aren't fake. You can relate to them, and I love All Eyes On Me," said Lakeisha Daniel, a junior at Whitney Young.

In the "Toss It Up" segment, callers get to give props to their friends, and also give a Bad Boy Smack to any "enemies." It's segments like these that give listeners the opportunity to feel as if they're part of the show.

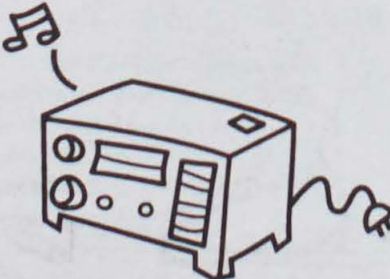
"We do radio from a listener's perspective," said Mike Love. Diz added that the Bad Boy Smack is for those times when you're listening to someone on the radio going, "I wish they would shut up."

"Sometimes you just listen to a person making no sense, and you want to do something, but it's all in fun," Diz said.

It's evident that Mike Love and Diz are having fun, but they also get perks such as pagers and clothes from advertisers. The Bad Boys said they don't want to give

off the impression that they have easy jobs. They are responsible for doing voice-overs and some production for commercials, or other spots that come in for the show.

"Even if you don't feel like having fun, you'd better be ready by 6," Love said.



NEBookshelf



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Heavenly Reading

Reviewed By Donald Gillon, Austin

"A Heavenly Place" by Jaci Valesquez and Thom Granger
Audience: Teens
Publisher: Fireside Books
Price: \$10.00



Jaci Valesquez

At 19, Jaci Valesquez is one of the country's most popular Christian singers. This book, "A Heavenly Place," shows she is quickly distinguishing herself as a good writer as well.

A Heavenly Place is very inspirational. Valesquez uses the book as platform to discuss issues of her past and how she handled her difficult teens years, thus far. She felt that a book about her life would be more relavant to teens, since she is one.

The book does a good job in taking readers into her past. Reading the book allows you to see how to handle every possible type of teen problem. Sex, family

relationships, making friends, and feeling good about herself are really highlighted well.

In one chapter, Jaci talked about the stress of moving from city to city without any friends during her first album recording.

For teens who are having problems or need a refresher in their spiritual quest, this is a must read. She also stress how you can have even a healthier relationship with God and love the Lord better.



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NEsports analysis

Teens in the pros: pro or con?

By D'Sheadra "Dot" Benford, Hyde Park

To be drafted by the N.B.A. or not to be? This is just one of a million questions plaguing teen athletes minds. They have to make the final decision to: go straight to the pros, go to a top ranked Division I school (i.e., Big Ten Conference), gain publicity and go into the draft as an underclassman, or take everything into consideration, including not making the draft, into their future plans.

It's hard to imagine why more top high school prep stars aren't making the jump to the pros. The temptation to score a seven digit salary,

superstardom, and if you're lucky, your own video game would be appealing to me. A couple of years ago, Chicago Farragut's Kevin Garnett, at 19, decided that his next level of learning would come from the NBA.

Contrary to many people's predictions, Garnett made it in Minnesota and is still going strong. However, this year's class of high school seniors, seem to be moving down the street.

For example, Quentin Richardson and Cordell Henry, both members of the state champion Whitney M. Young Dolphins basketball squad, can literally line their walls with basketball plaques, sportsmanship and specialized awards.

Henry and Richardson turned down the

temptations of the NBA and big named schools such as the Arizona, Kansas, and Tulane, to choose DePaul (Richardson), along with Lance Williams of Julian and Bobby Simmons of Simeon.

Richardson decided that DePaul University offered him something more than a rebuilding basketball team, but a school that backed it up with a well-rounded student body and high academic standards.

For Henry, he had to look just beyond the boundaries of Illinois, toward Wisconsin to be exact Marquette University provided a good support system, academic excellence, and a good basketball program to back it up, he feels.

In the end it's up to the individual to make the final choice for a college or university, not the media not the college scout, and most definitely not friends or fans.

So much for the dumb jock syndrome?

By Corey Miggins, Kennedy-King College

While student-athletes face more difficulties than regular students, they are apparently doing well academically, according to a recent national college study.

A 1996 study on NCAA Division I universities in the state of Texas and member schools in the Southland Conference discovered that student-athletes have a higher graduation rate than a whole student bodies as a whole.

Based upon their findings, NCAA officials hinted that the belief that athletes can't function outside of athletics has been a myth.

Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, led in the categories of student-athlete and all student graduation rates for both Division I (Texas) and the Southland Conference schools. They had 57 percent of athletes graduating in '96 alone.

Meanwhile, only 41 percent of the rest of student bodies received their degrees as well. In that same study, only two schools had a higher rate of all students combined: Texas A&M University with 67 percent and University of Texas at Austin with 63 percent. The study also showed that each

school's grad rate for athletes was no lower than 25 percent and not higher than 57 percent.

Overall, the NCAA reported in March, 1997 that more than 62 percent of all student athletes from Division I schools had graduated with their class, a slight improvement from a few years back.

One of the principle reasons for student athletes' success, according to Joyce Wellhoeffer, the women's softball coach at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago is, "they have more motivation and are disciplined to know what they want as an athlete."

One local Division I school that really stresses education first for its athletes is Chicago State University, located on the Southeast Side. This school does help in many ways to keep up with athletes and their academic progress.

"What we offer with our program is tutors and mandatory study hall for freshmen and transfer students," replied Kim McQuarter, former Chicago State women's basketball coach.

McQuarter, a former academic and athletic standout at Marshall and Old Dominion University, then added, "Study hall is required for students who's GPA is under a 2.5 (or B-average)."

Thanks to those programs, Chicago State

owns a student-athlete graduation rate of 34 percent compared to the average of 27 percent nationally.

Another reasons for their success, according to CSU officials, is that athletes tend to complete their four year discipline than other students.

DePaul University Athletic Director Bill Bradshaw added, "We (all colleges) are focusing on the (athletes) studies along with their being athletically gifted."

There are several important steps an athlete must take before playing a sport at a Division I school.

First, all athlete's must meet GPA standards. The minimum GPA that a freshman can qualify with is a 2.0 (C).

The second part comes from the combined test scores on either the ACT or the SAT tests. These scores must come from tests that were taken after April 1, 1995. On the SAT, the verbal and mathematics sections highest scores only are needed. In the ACT, on the other hand, the combination of the highest scores on all four individual tests will be used.

The third step is making sure required high school courses meet the NCAA standards.

The final element, graduating from high school, is the most important thing to do if an athlete wants to compete in Division I athletics. Any athlete not completing this will face a big setback in the future.

However, teen views are strong concerning the pressures placed on high school athletes to make the grade in their junior and senior years.

Marinda Kennedy, a senior at Mather and a two-year member of the school's girls track team, explains, "I feel athletes are being more pressured to do better in school, and do better as a student overall, and also in the way that they carry themselves at the school."

Michael Lee, a sophomore at South Shore, may soon be subjected to these pressures as he makes his attempts to make the school's varsity basketball team next year. "I think that most (athletes) are doing good, but there are some who are nervous with the fact that coaches are hollering at them or putting pressures on them to do good in school and in practice," Lee said.

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